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C. McKinney

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

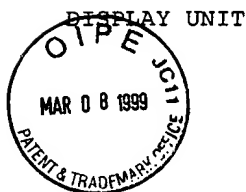
USA Patent Application

Peter Brandt, et al

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Application Division  
Customer Service Center  
Initial Patent Examination Division



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING ON LAST PAGE  
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Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

A copy of the German Patent Office Search Report from the parallel German application 197 58 383.0 (of which the present application claims priority) is submitted herewith together with 21 references. In the German Patent Office the references listed with an A meaning these documents define the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance to the listed claims. The references listed with an Y mean that these references together with other reference(s) of this category place the inventive level in question with respect to the listed claims. The references listed with an X mean these references are of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the documents are taken alone, with respect to the listed claims. In the German Patent Office Search Report the words "Betrifft Anspruch" means concerning claim, "Kategorie" means category, "Ermittelte Druckschriften/ Erläuterungen" means transmitted publications/explanations, "Fig(s).", means Fig(s).

illustrations, "Anspr." means claim, "siehe Literatur auf Anlage 1" means see literature on "Anlage 1", namely attachment 1.

Since this translation now provides the relevant portions of the German search report in English this makes the German search report in effect as an English language version, wherein no further concise explanation is required under 1138 OG 38. 3 PTO-1449 forms are presented to list all 21 references in the search report. Translations of the foreign language documents are not available to attorney for applicants. This submission meets the requirements of 37 CFR §1.97 and 1.98 and MPEP 609.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Brandt et al

by: \_\_\_\_\_

MARTIN A. FARBER  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registered Representative  
Registration No. 22,3345

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, 3 PTO-1449 forms and 21 references are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 3, 1999.

Dated: March 3, 1998

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Martin A. Farber

866 United Nations Plaza  
Suite 473  
New York, NY 10017  
(212) 758-2878